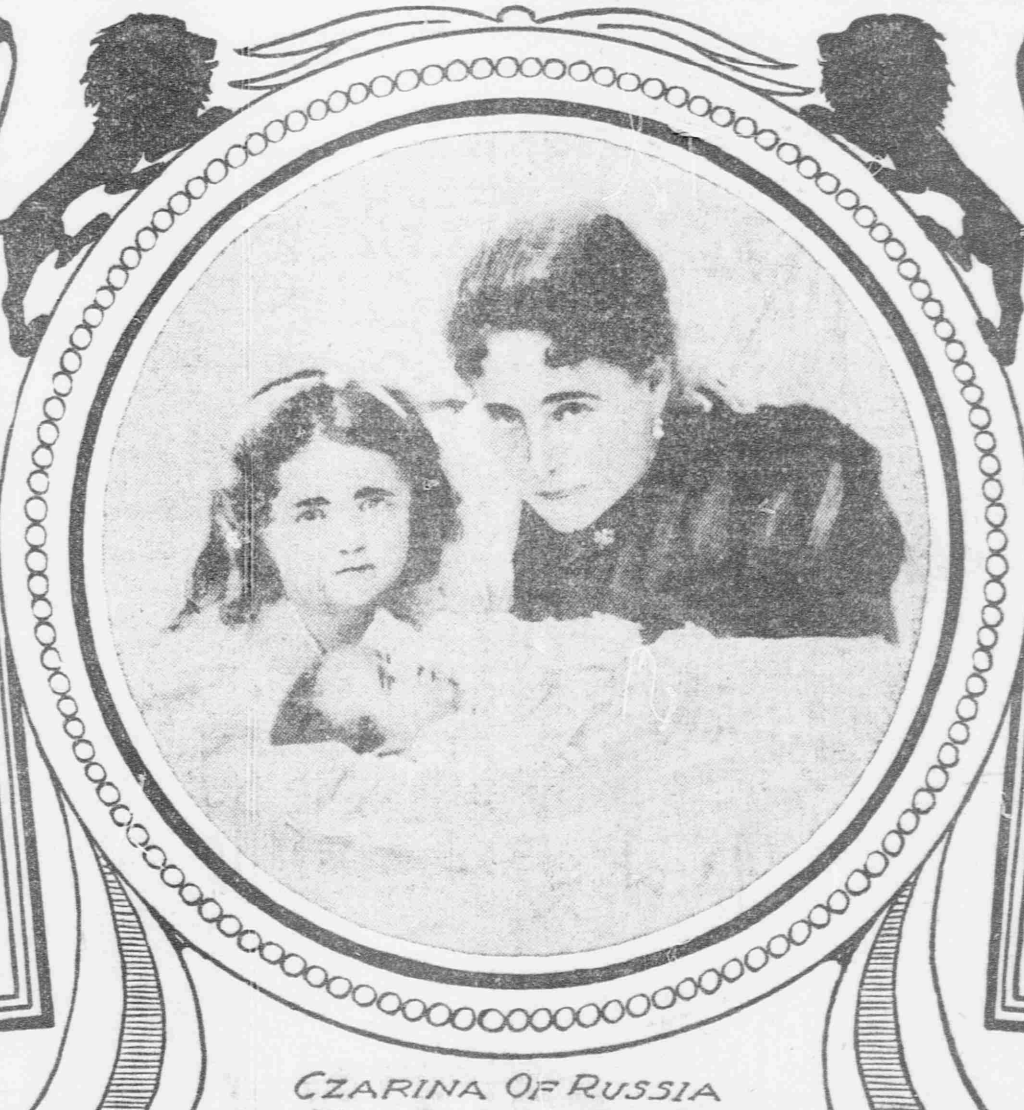


HOW THE WEIGHT OF THRONES RESTS UPON ROYALTY'S CHILDREN



CHILDREN OF
THE PRINCE OF
WALES.



CZARINA OF RUSSIA
AND TWO OF HER CHILDREN.



ANOTHER GROUPING
OF THE CHILDREN OF
THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Fortune's Smiles and Her Frowns Are Bestowed Without Partiality Upon the Little Ones Who Are Born With the Heritage of Empire, and the Greatness Which Comes to Them Frequently Makes Their Lives Anything but the Pleasant Round Which Is the Lot of Those More Humbly Born.

THE home life of European royalty is ever an interesting problem for the student of human nature. The men and women who so often appear in the public prints as having accomplished some great feat in diplomacy, in society, in love making, or in the more simple affairs of life, have usually a personal side of their character that is constantly cropping out and making interesting reading for the world.

Perhaps no feature of the lives of European rulers is more interesting to Americans than that touching on family affairs—the intimate home life that shapes, in a way, the affairs of court and the personality of children who in years to come will be heard from in the making of history. Varied, indeed, are the stories of European love affairs and other variegated troubles which cluster about the lives of the interesting children whose portraits appear on this page.

Young British Royalties.

Charmingly idyllic is the home life of the Prince and Princess of Wales, who have five beautiful children. Princess Mary, as she was always affectionately called before her marriage to the heir to the British throne, is the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Teck, and was born May 26, 1867, at White Lodge, in Richmond, in the historic country house of the Duke of Teck, which has come rather recently into prominence through the rumor that it was to be given to an American woman.

This rumor later was denied, but the demesne is now rented, and is not under the control of the Princess of Wales, as she had desired it should be.

If the Princess of Wales should succeed Queen Alexandra it is not saying too much to prophesy that she will be one of the most popular Queens England has ever been privileged to possess.

She inherits her popularity directly from her mother, Princess Mary of Cambridge, daughter of old King George's seventh son, who both before and after her marriage to the Duke of Teck was in constant favor with the English. And the present Princess of Wales and her mother were always inseparable companions.

Model Princess; Thoughtful Parents.

Princess Victoria Mary Augusta Louise Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes, which is her full name, is the eldest child and only daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Teck. All her childhood was passed at White Lodge among the prettiest rural scenes of which England boasts. For White Lodge commands two, at least, of the loveliest prospects in all Surrey.

Her girlhood was, therefore, peculiarly happy and healthy, spent as it was in the open air. This did not prevent her being, however, one of the most accomplished of royal English princesses.

One of the most notable illustrations of the affection the Prince bears to-

ward his wife was afforded on their latest trip to Australia and Canada, more than a year ago. The Prince was constantly by the side of the Princess and showed her every attention. The Canadians received the royal couple with open arms.

Both were always on the lookout for strange toys and mementos for the children left at home, and many were the little souvenirs taken back to England.

The Prince and Princess have lived partly at York House and partly at Marlborough House, and at the time of the King's illness both went to Buckingham Palace, where they were constantly at the bedside of His Majesty.

The couple were married July 6, 1893, in the Chapel Royal, at St. James's Palace, London. The scene was full

of life and movement, and eclipsed in pomp and splendor any State ceremonial at that time.

On June 24, 1894, was born the first son of the Duke and Duchess of York, Albert Christian George, who is the future Prince of Wales. He was almost immediately made a peer, and received the title of the Earl of Kent.

In December of 1895 the second son was born, and on April 25, 1897, a daughter was born at York Cottage, Sandringham, and given the name of Victoria Alexandra Alice May. Since that time two other children have come into the family.

The Prince and Princess of Wales continue to live quietly at York Cottage, Sandringham, bringing up their children much as they themselves spent their childhood, in the country and out in the open air.

The royal grandchildren soon became great pets with both grand-

mothers, particularly with Queen Alexandra, with whom they are often seen. She had entire charge of them during the absence of their parents when the latter made their tour of the world.

The sad-faced Czarina of Russia, mother of four beautiful girls, has never been popular in that empire, where she has been looked upon as an intruder. She is frequently spoken of as "the foreigner," as "the English woman" by one party and "the German" by another. Her education has been entirely English and she inherits many intellectual endowments and liberal ideas.

There have always been prayers for the part of the Russian people and prayers and sacred journeyings on the part of Nicholas II. and his wife, that the beautiful woman might bear a male heir to the throne—but all to no avail.

There have been recent rumors of the Czar's intention to abdicate the throne in view of his unhappiness. This condition has naturally made family affairs unpleasant, and may result in some sensational move on the part of the Czar.

The Czarina flatly refused to conform to certain Russian customs—smoking, for instance. She requested her ladies-in-waiting not to approach her if there were an odor of tobacco on their clothes.

All the Russian Grand Duchesses smoke like chimneys, including the Grand Duchess Sergius—a sister of the Czarina.

On entering a room one day where several of these ladies were enjoying cigarettes, her Imperial Majesty looked reprovingly round and said: "I consider a cigarette in a woman's mouth is as bad as an oath in a man's."

The boudoir of the Czarina at Czar-

skoye Selo is said to be a spacious apartment, very light and very sparsely furnished. Masses of tropical verdure divide the room into several cosy compartments and give it a very picturesque appearance.

The dado of the wall is formed almost entirely of photographs. An easel in one of the window recesses and a grand piano in another, testify to the Czarina's artistic tastes; several of her own water colors hang on the walls, and she is in the habit of singing to the Czar the folk-songs of his own country.

The Czarina is a most beautiful woman and worships her children. Her character is strong and firm, yet she is very gentle and approachable. She is of the refined, fair-haired, blue-eyed type, with finely chiseled features, a clear complexion and large bright, laughing eyes. She is an accomplished linguist, highly musical and an excellent artist.

popularly regarded lies undoubtedly in the rumors current among all classes in Russia that the Czar married her unwillingly.

It was a member of the Imperial family and a countrywoman of the Czarina—namely, the Grand Duchess Vladimir—who first started these tales, and who has all along been engaged in spreading them abroad. Even the peasants, who as a rule know no more than their cattle of what is going on in the world, have all had it whispered to them that their Czar has been unhappy because he has a wife whom he has not loved.

The Czarina is virtually without a friend in Russia. Among her most determined opponents, not to say foes, is her mother-in-law, the widowed Czarina Marie, who resents bitterly the yielding of Nicholas to the influence of his wife, rather than to her, and who is diametrically opposed to

every idea of her daughter-in-law, from politics down to the most trivial domestic details.

Much of her unpopularity among the uneducated classes—namely, the bulk of the population—is owing to an odd feeling they have that she is under an unlucky spell, that the Ikons do not smile on her. When she crossed the Russian frontier she was received, not with rejoicings, but with lamentations, for Czar Alexander III. lay dying and the whole nation was in sore distress.

It was by his deathbed that she was betrothed. The marriage was an affair of politics, not of hearts. However, the young couple from mere toleration became quite reconciled to their matrimonial lot.

Another reason for the ill-will with which the Czarina has all along been

Aside from Their Part in the Great Political Dramas of the Old World, the Sons and Daughters of the Blood That Is Blue Have Quite as Many Toys as Other Children, but With the Passing of Childhood Comes the Burden Bearing Which Has Caused So Much Unhappiness in the Seats of the Mighty.

every idea of her daughter-in-law, from politics down to the most trivial domestic details.

The present heir apparent to the Russian throne is the Grand Duke Michael, now Czarévitch and the Czar's only surviving brother. Should Nicholas II. die without male issue, Michael will ascend the throne—and that means much, not alone to Russia, but to the whole civilized world as well.

The Grand Duke Michael is entirely subject to the influence of his mother, the widowed Empress, who, in the event of his becoming Emperor, would become once more the power behind the throne and the most influential personage in all Russia.

Should the Czarina give birth to a boy, however, then the permanency of the liberal policy that Nicholas has inaugurated will be more or less assured.

Italy's Royal Lovers.

Few husbands are so deeply and ideally in love with their wives as King Victor Emmanuel is with Queen Helen.

Victor Emmanuel met the young princess, who was then simply Helen of Montenegro, at the court of St. Petersburg, and at once fell himself so powerfully attracted toward the charming princess that on his return to Rome he did not hesitate a moment to announce to his father, King Humbert, his intention of making her his wife.

The unexpected announcement was all the more a surprise for the "good king," inasmuch as the Italian ministers for foreign affairs had already proposed numerous matrimonial alliances for the crown prince, who had, however, invariably replied: "It is too soon yet; I have not completed my studies."

But after meeting Princess Helen the Prince of Naples, as he was then called, suddenly discovered that his studies needed no further attention.

Fights for His Queen.

With characteristic firmness and decision he overcame the difficulties and objections placed in his way by his father and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who wished to find a bride for the future King of Italy in one of the great courts of Europe instead of in the small and obscure principality of Montenegro.

After a very short lapse of time, almost in a few days, the Prince of Naples carried his point and married Princess Helen.

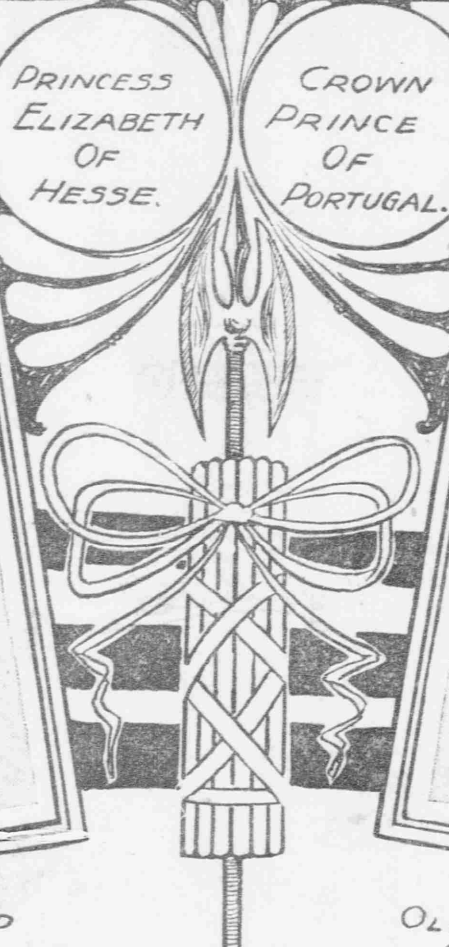
Both as Crown Prince and Princess and as sovereigns of Italy, King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helen, who now have two children—one having been born four years after their marriage, Princess Yolande, and the other child recently born, desire nothing so much as to live exclusively in their home circle, far from the cloying influence of court etiquette and unobserved by the inquisitive eyes of their 35,000,000 subjects.

This happy couple look back with regretful longing to the days when, undisturbed and unobserved by all, they made frequent excursions to the little and wild island of Monte Cristo, where, accompanied by a few domes-

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OLDEST CHILD
OF KING OF ITALY.



OLDEST DAUGHTERS
OF CZARINA OF RUSSIA.

